MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Cease-Fire, Military Situation -- A new cease-fire agreement came into effect late on 11 July after Beirut had endured a "horrific" day of shelling, according to Beirut radio. Voice of Lebanon radio said 86 civilians were killed and 187 were wounded in the "inferno" caused by the Israeli-Palestinian artillery exchanges. PLO shells and missiles destroyed 8 Israeli vehicles, set fire to the IDF's fuel tanks in the B'abda area and also hit the Presidential Palace in the same locality, the radio said. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio claimed that Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces prevented an Israeli advance, knocking out 12 tanks. Meanwhile, the IDF spokesman said 3 Israeli soldiers were killed and 28 were injured in the fighting on 11 July, according to Jerusalem radio reports.

The shelling had been intermittent on 10 July but intense on the night of 9 July, according to the Voice of Palestine. Syrian forces were involved in the fighting around Beirut on 10 July, Damascus radio noted. The previous day, Voice of Lebanon radio said the Syrians had reinforced their positions in the Al-Biqa' Valley with a new missile network south of Riyaq. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Beirut headquarters was hit by Israeli shells on 9 July, according to Jerusalem radio. The radio also cited an AP report that several Arab embassies in west Beirut had been hit by shells on 10 July but subsequently claimed that Israeli forces were refraining from firing at the embassy area.

PLO Peace Plan, Withdrawal Position -- After a 10 July PLO leadership meeting, Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat submitted an 11-point "final minimum plan" to Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Beirut radio reported. Noting that the plan has been communicated to the United Nations, France and the Soviet Union, the radio said the last point deals with the formation of the international force and the appointment of a commander. Citing a responsible PLO source, Radio Monte Carlo said the plan calls for: a real cease-fire; Israeli withdrawal from Beirut; return of PLO forces to the refugee camps; the deployment of a joint international and Lebanese Army buffer force; the evacuation from Beirut of PLO combatants; the withdrawal of PLO leaders; the maintenance of a Palestinian political and military presence in Lebanon; and guarantees for Palestinians living in refugee camps. However, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the PLO has proposed to evacuate only its command from Beirut and will not discuss the other details of its military and political presence in Beirut before the arrival of a multinational force followed by a disengagement of forces, according to the Voice of Palestine. 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan likewise informed Al-Wazzan on 10 July that the multinational force must arrive in Beirut before the Palestinian withdrawal begins and that the PLO is not committed to any promise it has made on leaving Lebanon until the Syrian stance becomes clear, the Voice of Lebanon reported. Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) leader Nayif Hawatimah stressed that the Palestinian stand is based on the need for the presence of an international force, according to the Voice of Palestine.

In an 11 July interview in Damascus reported by Vienna radio, PLO Executive Committee spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar said the PLO would be ready to negotiate all unresolved questions with the Lebanese Government after an Israeli withdrawal 5-10 km southward from Beirut. The PLO intends to remain in west Beirut in some form, he said, although the extent of its armed presence would be negotiable.

Criticism of Arabs -- While the Palestinians have been confronting the Israeli invasion for 6 weeks, "Arab silence envelopes the area, as if the nation were in a deep sleep," Yasir 'Arafat asserted in a speech read over the Voice of Palestine. The radio also noted that Salah Khalaf warned that the Palestinians will take revenge for several matters when the war is over, beginning with the Arab states that ignored the Palestinian predicament in Lebanon.

Syrian Position, Contacts -- There is "no chance" for transferring the Palestinian fighters from Beirut to Syria because their natural place is where they are now, a Syrian spokesman said in remarks reported by SANA on 10 July. Noting that the PLO had not mentioned moving its fighters to Syria, the Syrian official said discussions were continuing with the Lebanese Government about the PLO's headquarters, not its fighters. The following day, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper discussed a U.S. proposal for the evacuation of PLO fighters to Syria with Syrian officials in Damascus, according to Beirut radio. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed Syria's desire for an Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the U.S.-sponsored Syrian-Israeli cease-fire agreement of 11 June, the radio noted. According to a related Voice of Lebanon radio report, the Syrians told Draper that the Israelis must withdraw before Syria will be ready to receive some PLO commanders but not the fighters. According to Monte Carlo radio, circles in Damascus announced that Palestinian and Syrian forces will remain in west Beirut and are ready to repulse the Israelis. Meanwhile, the Syrian-backed As-Sa'iqah organization rejected disarmament or evacuation of the PLO as political and military surrender, according to Damascus television. A Damascus radio commentary said the Palestinians can only withdraw to Palestine and warned that if U.S. forces land in Lebanon, Syria will consider them as allied with Israel and will face the Americans just as it faces the IDF.

Lebanese Appeal, Contacts -- In a statement broadcast by Beirut radio on 11 July, Prime Minister al-Wazzan called on the United States to be more firm with Israel in order to preserve the cease-fire. Those negotiating the components of a political solution were taken by surprise by Israel's "crazy shelling" of Beirut, Al-Wazzan affirmed. On 9 July, Al-Wazzan crossed into east Beirut for the first time in 6 days for talks with the Lebanese President and U.S. envoy Philip Habib, according to AFP.

Israeli Position, Comments -- The Israeli Cabinet is concerned about the stalemate in the Beirut negotiations but will wait a little longer and if nothing comes out of the negotiations may reconvene in the middle of the week to decide its next moves, according to a Jerusalem radio report on the 11 July Cabinet meeting. Stressing that Israel will not allow a war of attrition to be conducted with the "terrorists" in the Beirut area, the radio also reported that several Cabinet ministers expressed concern that the "terrorists" are deceiving Israel in order to gain time. Earlier, Jerusalem television said U.S. envoy Habib has unofficially fixed 1 August as the date for completing the PLO's evacuation from Beirut. Noting that Habib had warned that the exchanges of artillery fire in Beirut were making negotiations harder, Jerusalem radio subsequently cited a TIME magazine report that President Ronald Reagan has hinted to Prime Minister Menahem Begin that the United States may negotiate directly with the PLO if Israel continues to intentionally foil Habib's mediation. Although the radio said Begin did not react to this hint in his reply to Reagan, it later reported that Reagan's message has not yet reached Jerusalem.

Peacekeeping Force -- France agrees to send troops to Lebanon to participate in a peacekeeping force on condition that a Lebanese-Palestinian commission defines the scope of the force and that there is an explicit agreement from the PLO as well as UN support, Paris radio reported on 10 July. In another development, a Greek Government spokesman said Greece would participate in the international peace force in Lebanon with 300 men if there is a consensus among the superpowers and the PLO, Israel and Lebanon, Athens armed forces radio reported. The radio said Greece would agree to a request by PLO leader 'Arafat to transport the PLO fighters wherever they wish.

Political sources in Jerusalem said the French agreement to participate in the multinational force to supervise the transfer of the "terrorists" from west Beirut was indicative of "progress" in the negotiations, Jerusalem television reported. On the Palestinian side, a DFLP spokesman welcomed French participation in a multinational force, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Meanwhile, three Lebanese leftist leaders -- Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah and Communist Party Secretary-General Georges Hawi -- likewise welcomed the French announcement, according to AFP.

Arab Contacts, Summit -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the Lebanese crisis in telephone contacts with Saudi King Fahd and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on 11 July, according to Damascus television.

On 9 July, Libya's Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba in Tunis to discuss the Lebanon situation, Tunis radio reported. Following this visit, the radio reported that Bourguiba called for an Arab summit to be held this week in Tunisia to discuss joint Arab action in Lebanon. The PLO will ask the Arab summit conference to apply the joint Arab defense pact to confront the Israeli invasion, QNA reported citing a PLO announcement in Amman.

Refugees -- At least 5,000 Lebanese and 5,000 Palestinians are believed to have sought refuge in Syria since the Israeli invasion, AFP said citing the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees. AFP cited another UN body as saying 47,000 Palestinian refugees are homeless.

Recognition Issue -- Beirut radio noted that PLO personality 'Isam as-Sartawi appealed for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Egypt

Al-Baz in Amman -- Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz arrived in Amman and delivered a message to Jordan's King Husayn from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak regarding the situation in Lebanon, according to AFP.

Foreign Minister on Jordan -- In a statement to MENA, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt rejects Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's statement on establishing a Palestinian state in Jordan. He said that the idea contravenes international agreements and that the Palestinian presence in Jordan is temporary.

Jordan

King Husayn returned from a short visit to Iraq during which he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to discuss the Lebanon situation, the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad and the Iran-Iraq war, Amman radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Following the OPEC ministers' summit in Vienna, Saudi Arabia announced it would no longer abide by the oil production ceiling set by OPEC in March, and that it was no longer bound by the OPEC oil price reference for light crude, AFP reported.

Iran

Khamene'i Message -- In a message sent by President 'Ali Khamene'i to Cuban leader Fidel Castro, he said he is disappointed that the Nonaligned Movement has not taken "proper and effective action" regarding Lebanon, Tehran radio reported. He said Iran is ready to use all its political, economic and military abilities to help Lebanon.

Qotbzadeh Trial -- The trial of former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotzbadeh was postponed until further notice at Qotzbadeh's request, IRNA noted.

Mahabad Clashes -- Nineteen "counterrevolutionaries" were killed by revolution guards in Mahabad, the paper ETTELA'AT reported.

DAILY REPORT

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EXPELLED ISRAELI DIPLOMAT LEAVES BOMBAY

BK110800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jul 82

[Text] Israeli Consul in Bombay Yosef Hasin left Bombay early today. He was declared persona non grata by the government. The announcement last Thursday followed an interview given by him to a Sunday paper of Bombay.

GANDHI ASSAILS ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LEBANON

BK091349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Text] The prime minister has called upon nations which are in a position to influence Israel to take immediate steps for getting the siege of west Beirut lifted. Steps should also be taken to ensure withdrawal of Israeli troops to their own territory.

In a statement in Parliament today, Mrs Gandhi said after this immediate objective is achieved negotiations must begin for a just, comprehensive and durable solution acceptable to all concerned. Amidst cheers she said such a solution must ensure the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people -- including their right to an independent state.

Strongly condemning the unprovoked Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the brutal killings of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, the prime minister said this has aroused deep anguish and revulsion in the entire world community, including people within the United States as well as Israel itself.

Mrs Gandhi deplored that the efforts of the international community to secure vacation of aggression have made no progress as Israel continues to defy counsels of restraint. It has callously ignored the unanimous resolutions adopted by the Security Council and a resolution adopted by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister said India had taken every initiative in the matter. She had personally written to several heads of state, including President Reagan, President Brezhnev and President Mitterrand. Mrs Gandhi feared that Beirut could well be totally destroyed and its population annihilated if the Israeli blockade continues. Many hundred thousand residents are totally deprived of essential supplies of water, electricity, food and medical assistance. The cease-fire is fragile and precarious.

Mrs Gandhi said Israel will be well advised to pay heed to the growing worldwide vocal concern, including the voices of thousands of its own people, who have demonstrated against the invasion of Lebanon.

GANDHI: HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION TO DOUBLE

BK021717 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 82

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that technical problems responsible for delays in heavy water plants have been identified. These are being rectified to raise production of this crucial nuclear material. Mrs Gandhi was speaking at the consultative committee of members of Parliament attached to the Departments of Space, Atomic Energy, Electronics, Science and Technology, Environment and Ocean Development. The meeting of the committee was held in New Delhi today.

Mrs Gandhi said the Kota heavy water plant will start producing reactor-grade heavy water before the end of the year. A target of 80 tons has been set for the production of heavy water by March 1983. The current production is 45 tons.

KHAMENE'I ANSWERS CASTRO MESSAGE ON LEBANON

LD091906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Message sent by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Cuban leader Fidel Castro, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, in reply to a message from Castro to the leaders of the nonaligned countries — date not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Mr Fidel Castro, president of the friendly country of Cuba and leader of the Nonaligned Movement: I studied your message addressed to leaders of the nonaligned countries. I deem it necessary, as a Muslim, to thank you for your comments on the Palestinian situation and for your sensitivity on the crimes committed by the Zionists against the much-suffering people of Lebanon. The evil deeds in Lebanon by the regime occupying Al-Quds are beyond description. But even more surprising is the deadly and conspiratorial silence of the world under the domination of the superpowers about these savage acts.

It is saddening to see that the Nonaligned Movement has not distinguished itself from the rest of the silent world by proper and effective action. But we reserve the right to complain about the reason for the movement's failure to respond to the incidents in Lebanon several weeks after the event. In any case, it is the historical duty of every freedom-seeking person in the world today to realize the grave danger of the aggressive act of Israel and to confront it with all their might.

The objective behind this act is to ensure the increasing domination of the United States over the Middle East, either by providing another solution to save the Baghdad leaders or by savagely crushing the centers of resistance against Israel and America in this corner of the world.

The objective is to disarm the Palestinian Revolution and then to destroy it, and also to disintegrate the Muslim movement against suppression in the south and other parts of Lebanon.

The objective is to create another Israel from a Lebanon whose leaders will be chosen under the threat of Israeli weapons. The inauspicious [shumeh] realization of these sins will not only engulf the first line of the battle against Zionists or the other Muslims of the Middle East. This conspiracy will affect all those who want to live free from the domination of imperialism. Therefore, all these forces should be mobilized against it.

We, for our part, announce that just as immediately after the Israeli attack we sent some of our military forces to Lebanon to help, now as a nonaligned and Muslim country we are ready to use all our political, economic and military abilities to help dear Lebanon.

I deem it necessary to stress the point that the mere expression of condemnation and disgust for the crimes of Zionists is not enough under present circumstances. We hope the nonaligned countries will not forget their historical duty, and we hope for the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MUSAVI COMMENTS ON JERUSALEM DAY, OPEC, IRAQ

LD102144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in an interview Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi commented on the importance of International Jerusalem Day, saying: The importance of this day is felt more each year.

The objective of this day is to Islamicize the issue of the occupation of Jerusalem and Palestine. Obviously, the fact that marking this day in the blessed month of Ramadan is becoming a tradition will prepare the grounds for the mobilization of Muslims to destroy Zionism. This year we welcome this day at a time when long and effective steps are being taken to confront Zionism. Also, the Muslims have extensive international possibilities to further the cause of the liberation of Jerusalem.

On Iran's oil policy in OPEC the prime minister said: Our oil policy is quite clear. In this regard we respect the decisions of OPEC but we will not be deceived by America and allow Saudi Arabia to saturate the oil market and so confront our Islamic revolution. OPEC decisions are important to us, but even more important is safeguarding the Islamic revolution. OPEC can only remain united and powerful if its policies are in the interests of the member countries, and not just one country like Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on the damage done by the mercenaries of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said: We will do everything necessary to restore our rights. Once again I announce we do not have our eyes on other territories, but at the same time we cannot ignore our own rights. All those who are interested in the security of the region should know that without Iraq's complete withdrawal from our land, payment for the damage we suffered in the war and Saddam's punishment this security will not be established. This is confirmed by the leaders of the Islamic revolution in Iraq and our friends in the world of Islam. Even the official in charge of the Islamic revolution of Iraq's bureau suggested we should enter Iraqi territory and help liberate the Iraqi nation from the domination of Saddam's 'Aflaqi regime.

In this interview the prime minister also commented on the blind efforts of the hypocrites and prevention of addiction.

MUSAVI ON WAR REPARATIONS, NONALIGNED VENUE

LD112224 Tehran IRNA in English 1932 GMT 11 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, 11 Jul (IRNA) -- "We think we have the right to take any measure deemed necessary, in order to protect our country, create real security and to obtain reparations for war damages", said Prime Minister Musavi in an interview with the morning daily JOHMURI-YE ESLAMI (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC), this morning.

The prime minister of the Islamic Republic, who was commenting on the issue of the Iraqi imposed war, the latest developments in the region and recent claims of the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, said that Iran had no guarantee that the Iraqi forces would not attack its cities after the announcement of the ceasefire. Furthermore, he said that Iran could not trample upon the obligations that the blood of the Iranian people shed in the course of the imposed war had created, and thus give in to the plots of the superpowers and Saddam.

The prime minister once again reiterated the opposition of the Islamic Republic to holding the forthcoming conference of the Non-aligned Movement in the Iraqi capital. Such a measure would be completely against the principles of the movement and would be as if the movement had voted against itself. "There is no doubt that we will refuse to forego the smallest portion of our rights and it is obvious that holding the conference in Baghdad in addition to damaging the credibility of the movement will also be held in a state of fear". He then quoted Imam Khomeyni as saying there was the possibility that the Iraqi Government itself might bomb the conference hall and then blame this act on Iran, Musavi said. If the movement wanted to preserve its political reputation in the world it should have changed the venue of the conference and should not accept the patronage of the criminal Saddam.

Commenting on the recent proposal of the Iraqi president, who invited Iranian Muslims to visit the holy places in Iraq, the prime minister said that just like his other claims concerning his alleged withdrawal and interest in peace, this proposal was also another attempt to create a political atmosphere in which Saddam could continue his political life.

"We advise him, instead of inviting several thousand Iranians to visit An-Najaf and Karbala', to return the one hundred thousand Iraqi deportees to their homes. This would be more pleasing to God," Musavi said.

Prime Minister Musavi, in another part of the interview, referring to the imposed war and the possibility of establishment of peace, told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, "It is a religious obligation for us to fight against injustice and aggression, to regain our rights and to protect the interests of our nation." Accepting peace at a time when none of our conditions are fulfilled, would be like strangling our revolution with our own hands."

As for the aggression of the Zionist regime against Lebanon, Prime Minister Musavi said that such an attack was a step toward the destruction of the Zionist regime because it had led to the revival of anti-imperialist sentiments in the world and has created a pillar for the unity of the Muslims and had made them concentrate their attention on their main enemy in the region, United States imperialism. This incident would deeply affect the future of the region and the wrath and anger of the Muslims of the region would set the whole existence of the Zionists on fire, he concluded.

RAFSANJANI DEMANDS IRAQI WAR REPARATIONS

LD091236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Excerpts] On the third Friday of the holy month of Ramadan and on the eve of International Jerusalem Day, millions of our Muslim compatriots throughout the country today took part in the glorious political and religious Friday prayers and expressed their readiness for their universal and nationwide participation in the great marches on Jerusalem Day. Tehran University, the meeting place of the vast crowds of the Muslim and fasting people of Tehran, witnessed the glorious and powerful Friday prayers, which were led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The temporary Friday imam of Tehran, in his second sermon referring to the innumerable crimes of the aggressive Baghdad regime in destroying various Iranian cities, said:

[Begin recording] Following his defeat, Saddam has now thought of an escape route for himself and he wishes to have peace -- he is lying, of course. If he were telling the truth he would not have destroyed so many cities while he was leaving. Somebody who wishes to make peace leaves behind a gift when he wishes to leave. He has destroyed Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, Mehran, [name indistinct], Naftshahr, oil wells, bridges. Does he wish to have peace?

Governments, why are you so stupid? You nonaligned, why are you so foolish or pretending to be so foolish? What kind of a peace is this? What kind of peace is it that, when he wishes to leave a country he has occupied for 20 months, he plants 80,000 mines in the roads, streets, alleys, bazaars, bridges and rivers so that if someone goes there later he will be blown up and killed? Why do you make such baseless claims?

[Words indistinct] why do you fight so much against the truth? Just because you wish to go to Baghdad and hold a conference of the nonaligned there, or because you are under American influence although you call yourselves nonaligned, what kind of Nonaligned Movement is it when it is composed of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Numayri and those like him? [sentence as heard]

These nonaligned who wish to go say that Saddam has taken a step; yes, he had taken a step from the cities because he has become frightened that soon he will be captured, and he has fled to the hills and erected fortifications there, but he has destroyed the towns. Is there any difference between one kind of occupation and another? If he wanted to go in peace, why did he cause so much destruction? If you are man enough and are truthful, go to Khorramshahr and stay there for 2 days and see if you can survive being killed by Iraqi shells.

What kind of peace is this? We know the truth. The day after Saddam came, he was talking of peace. He called for peace, but he said the Shatt al-'Arab should be given to him, that the western hills should be given to him, that the three islands should be given to him, that Khuzestan should be called Arabistan, Ahvaz should be called Al-Ahvaz, Khorramshahr should be called Muhammarah and Abadan should be called 'Ubbadan. However, now that he has gone he has forgotten all these things. He says: We are going, the borders should be the same international borders; Shatt al-'Arab is not correct, Arvand would be all right, or half of it should be called Arvand and the other half should be called Shatt al-'Arab. He is now saying all these things through fear.

This is not peace, and the world is not so ignorant, and we cannot vacate an area of 800 km by 50 km which can be shelled by long-range artillery. We shall turn Iraqi shells toward Baghdad. We shall break Iraq's arms. We shall receive the expenses which we have incurred in the war. We shall rebuild the cities which have been destroyed with the revenue from Iraqi oil. We shall refund from the same revenue the people who have suffered damages; and if they do not pay, we shall drag it from their throats. We shall prove to the world that the Islamic Republic will not allow an aggressor to go unpunished. [shouts of "God is great"] [end recording]

MONTAZERI FAVORS ROUTE TO JERUSALEM THROUGH IRAQ

LD091120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Nurmofidi, the imam's representative and the Friday imam of Gorgan, who is going to Pakistan at the head of the third delegation, met and conferred with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom last night. During this meeting, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while wishing success to the delegations which are being dispatched, referred to the readiness of the combatants of Islam and graciously stated that the most natural route for reaching the Jerusalem front to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from occupation of the racist Zionists, is through Iraqi territory and the Karbala' of Hoseyn, and that we are certain that the millions-strong Muslim masses will support our sacred aim.

In connection with the necessity to prepare and mobilize the Muslims to take part in a huge march toward the holy place [bayt al-moqaddas] the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said that the ceremonies marking Jerusalem Day should be held in Islamic countries in as glorious a fashion as possible, and it is the duty of the committed clergy and ulema of Islam to prepare the Muslims for such an important decision. Jerusalem Day, which was chosen by a decree of the leader of the Islamic revolution, will be the best opportunity for the world of Islam.

IRANIAN UN DELEGATE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD110915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Jul 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent UN representative, Mr Raja'i, held a press conference at UN headquarters yesterday afternoon to brief correspondents on Iran's views concerning recent developments and the Iraqi aggression against Iran.

Commenting on the war with Iraq, the Iranian envoy said that following their recent defeat, the Iraqis immediately retreated so as to avoid being captured by Iranian forces. Iraqi forces are still shelling our civilian regions and have completely destroyed all the cities, towns and villages they had withdrawn from.

Commenting on the Security Council's forthcoming debate on the Iran-Iraq war and the search for a solution, the Iranian envoy said: The Security Council's initiative can only be regarded as indirect assistance to Iraq. [Words indistinct] if Iranian forces enter Iraqi territory this action is not aimed at occupation.

A correspondent asked if the fall of Saddam was among Iran's conditions to end the war. Mr Raja'i replied: This is not a condition for peace, but is inevitable. We hope for Saddam's downfall, as do the people of Iraq, but our basic conditions are those we set out in the beginning.

Commenting on Lebanon, the Iranian envoy said the Zionist regime was a usurper and had to go. The implementation of short-term solutions will not solve the basic issue, because the aggression is there and so long as the issue is there the region's Muslims will not forget it.

Commenting on the export of the revolution, the Iranian permanent UN representative said the issue was not controlled by Iran, because the revolution's message was everywhere; even you may have felt it within the United Nations. Political awareness, commitment the principles of Islam and the belief that Islam is a constructive and liberating force have reached their climax in [word indistinct] this is the aspiration of the Muslims themselves. Wishing to be committed, they have come to understand Islam's political and economical security. This is religious awareness; we are proud of it.

Commenting on the forthcoming nonaligned summit meeting in Baghdad, Mr Raja'i said that Iran will not attend the summit. We basically believe the summit will not convene in Baghdad; if it does, it will be regarded as a defeat for the movement.

COMMANDER SHIRAZI COMMENTS ON IRAQ, LEBANON

LD091350 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Text] Ahvaz, July 8 IRNA — The commander of the ground forces, Colonel 'Ali Sayyad Shirazi, in an interview with an IRNA reporter here today, referred to the withdrawal of the Iraqi Ba'thist armed forces from Iranian territory, and said that simultaneous with the plot hatched by the U.S. against southern Lebanon Saddam is apparently trying to save himself. Shirazi said Saddam announced that he would recall his troops to the international borders within a few days, but this movement clearly indicated flight and a military failure. The colonel asserted Saddam's declaration of a truce was a deception because Iran is witnessing that the enemy's artillery fire is still hitting Iranian border cities and battlefronts.

He said that the Ba'thist armed forces will never fulfill the ceasefire Saddam has announced. For example, he added, a number of Iranian border cities like Abadan, Khorramshahr, Bostan, Qasr-e Shirin, Dehloran, Naftshahr, and Sumar which always are under the fire of the Ba'thist aggressors, proved the hollowness of Saddam's allegations. He further expressed his hope for making arrangements to halt the enemy's fire forever on Iranian border cities.

Telling the nation that the Islamic defenders enjoy high morale in the southern and western battlefronts, Col. Shirazi announced that the Iranian soldiers are impatient to inflict the final blows on the mercenary Iraqi troops.

Concerning the Ba'thist aggressors' reasons for devastating the cities when withdrawing, Shirazi said this was due to the fear they have of being involved in house to house fighting as they remember how they suffered in this type of combat in Khorramshahr.

Regarding the method of obtaining war indemnities and punishing the aggressor, Shirazi stated that Iran could not wait for the world's peoples to achieve its own rights; therefore, this matter was in the hands of the Iranian nation. Regarding the military aid rendered by Iran to the oppressed nation of Palestine, Col. Shirazi said Iran was a country in which the magnificent Islamic revolution is based, has played a more effective role than any other Muslim nation and government in this respect.

The world never thought that Iran would take military measures against the Zionist regime, while it was in a war against Iraq. The colonel then expressed hope that with the fall of Saddam, Iran can undertake more fundamental measures in coordination with the world's Muslims, to liberate Al-Quds.

Asked about the recent request of Yasir 'Arafat for holding a session of the heads of the non-aligned countries and inviting the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colonel Shirazi said that the policy of Iran for participating in sessions helping to establish unity among the non-aligned countries, especially among the world's Muslim countries, is clear. He further remarked that Iran always has welcomed the organising of sessions which strengthen the non-aligned fronts versus global imperialism.

Concluding his remarks, Col. Shirazi gave the people of Iran the glad tidings of regaining the Islamic Republic's right, and said "God willing, we will go to the front by land."

WAR PUBLICITY CHIEF COMMENTS ON IRAQI WITHDRAWAL

LD112322 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 11 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 11 IRNA -- The future military operations of the Islamic defenders, their political effects, the instability of the ruling pillars of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, military plots of the enemy for resuming its offensive on Iran, holding of the non-aligned conference, Saddam's contradictory sayings and the low morale of the Ba'thist army were outlined by the head of the War Information Headquarters, Dr. Kamal Gharazi, for IRNA.

In response to a question concerning the continuation of the war, Ghazari stated that Iran would definitely punish the aggressor. He added that Iran was willing to demonstrate to the world a new method for punishing aggression and becoming a model in this regard for the world of Islam.

We are willing to show the world, he asserted, that we cannot rely upon international organisations and various conferences to punish the aggressor, but we ourselves, by having reliance on our faith and our arms, should duly punish him.

Concerning the political effects of the future operations of the Islamic defenders, Gharazi remarked that those effects have already been revealed. And as we saw, when some of our statesmen said it was not unlikely we would enter Iraqi territory, the Ba'thist regime and its supporters trembled, so that all Iraqi mass media started again to talk about the non-formation of the non-aligned conference in Baghdad. He went on and said that this fear could be clearly seen in the Iraqi ruling clique, and that radio Baghdad for the first time on Wednesday reviewed the results of the shakiness of Saddam and the changes in the Baghdad regime The announcer, Gharazi remarked, was trying to make the Iraqi people anxious over the results of Saddam's collapse. Gharazi added that what the Islamic combatants would do in future, was pave the way for the struggle of the people of the region against imperialism and usurper Zionism.

Referring to the mouthings of the Baghdad ruler in the early days of the war concerning the action of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gharazi stated that after 22 months, the world witnessed how Iraq is defeated in the battlefield and is withdrawing step by step, seeking peace. In other words, Gharazi said Iraq is trying to stall for time, to get refreshed and launch another offensive against Iran after the holding of the non-aligned conference.

Asked about the objective of the recent Iraqi withdrawal and flight, Gharazi stressed that the Ba'thist regime, was merely planning to reinforce and equip its army and its recent flight was mainly to avoid a serious setback. At the same time, he said, Saddam was himself [seen] as wanting to end hostilities.

Continuing his remarks he emphasised that Iraqi troops not only have not evacuated Iranian territory, but they are still stationed on Iranian soil and are regularly attacking our cities and residential areas, from Shalamcheh to the Shatt al-'Arab, which were not completely liberated.

Apart from this, Dr. Gharazi added, in the western part of Iran, there were large areas which are in the hands of the enemy, even Naftshahr. Despite destroying all its oil wells, the enemy has not left there yet, and is firing on other cities from there, so that, (?he) continued, nobody could enter the city and witness the crimes Saddam had committed there. Dr. Gharazi continued that several very sensitive and strategic spots were still under the control of the enemy, such as the Zainal Kosh heights and the Mehran Hill 343, Ibn-e Ziari heights, Bahram Abad outpost and its heights, Tileh Kuh heights, Bishgan, Tang-e Hammam and Agh Daq heights, the heights overlooking Bavaisi and a part of Bamou heights and the heights overlooking the Hedayat outpost, Sumar heights, Nai Khazar Helaleh regions, Shur-e Shirin and several other sensitive and strategic spots.

According to reports, he added, in some of these areas, the enemy was preparing itself for military movements to resume its offensive on the liberated parts.

To rebuild the border cities and resettle the war refugees, the Islamic defenders, Gharazi added, are forced to curtail the root of aggression and foil the enemy's plan for reinforcing and re-attack on Iran.

In connection with the morale of the Iraqi soldiers, the head of the War Information Headquarters stated that [word indistinct] as he was informed, the morale of Iraqi forces is very low and many groups of them are daily surrendering themselves to the Islamic forces.

TEHRAN: TIME FOR 'GRAND, HISTORIC BATTLE'

LD120908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0750 GMT 12 Jul 82

[From the "Islamic Revolution Guards" program]

[Excerpts] Two years after the U.S. military aggression against Islamic Iran -- 2 years during which we have witnessed unprecedented crimes committed by Saddam -- it is time to end this imposed war by ending the reign of the pro-American regime. Indeed, America, this arch-Satan, imposed an undesirable and destructive war on us in order to annihilate the Islamic revolution. Having inflicted crushing blows on the mercenary Ba'thist army, we are now about to end this imposed war through a grand and historic battle.

Now is the time for Saddam to be toppled and his Ba'th regime to die, so that the warmonger may be destroyed and the war may be ended. Indeed, we have been saying all along that the war should end. However, the war cannot be ended through concessions by the oppressed party; the war cannot be ended through an imposed peace. It can only be achieved by annihilating the oppressor and eliminating the warmonger.

Fighting the oppressor and declaring jihad on the executioners are the best and most effective ways of ending criminal (?regimes). We know that in this battle the pure blood of young men will be shed by these oppressors, that the immaculate bodies of fighters will fall by American bullets. The goal, however, is sacred.

IRNA REPORTS IRAQI FORCES PREPARING FOR ATTACK

LD101744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Text] IRNA reports that Iraq's Ba'thist Zionist regime started a series of substantial transfers and digging trenches in the Meymak region. According to informed military sources, the Iraqi forces might intend to attack the forces of Islam from this region.

According to the same report, in order to prepare for its attack on our Islamic homeland and in spite of all its baseless claims regarding observing a unilateral cease-fire, the aggressive Ba'thist Zionist regime has recently begun a campaign in its communiques to create an atmosphere of suspicion and is spreading the rumor that the forces of Islam suffer heavy casualties in confrontations with Iraqi forces.

GUERRILLAS DESTROY IRAQI POSITIONS IN MEYMAK

LD092050 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Text] Ilam, July 9th, (IRNA) -- An Islamic guerrilla unit infiltrated positions of the enemy in the Meymak region, Ilam Province, at dawn Thursday, killed some of Iraqi aggressors and caused material damages. Supported by the artillery fire of the Islamic combatants in the Meymak front, the guerrillas killed some enemy soldiers and smashed some observation posts and personnel strongholds of the enemy troops. After the mission, all of the Islamic combatants returned to their base safely. For hours afterwards the ambulances of the enemy were heard moving around transferring the killed and wounded soldiers.

Meanwhile, during the last 24 hours, with the katyusha fire of the Islamic combatants upon the positions of the Iraqi forces in one of the heights of Meymak, one tank and some group bunkers of the enemy were smashed and three of their vehicles suffered some damages.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 969-971

969: 9 July Report

LD091746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 82

[Communique No 969 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The 8th of July, the anniversary of the victory of the battle of Badr, the first victory achieved by Islam over the atheists and [word indistinct] of the time, is dear to us, remembering the sacrifices and generosity of the friends of the great prophet, we hail the pure souls of all the martyrs of Islam.

The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, like the selfless combatants at the dawn of Islam, using the weapon of belief and following their goal of martyrdom, are determined to continue their efforts on the fronts until the complete annihilation of the enemies of Islam and the Koran is achieved. They are convinced that with the help of God they will be victorious on this divine path.

During the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued between the combatants of Islam and Saddam's weakened army on the Western and southern fronts. The battle raged more fiercely on the Meymak, Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin fronts than in other areas. On these fronts, our fire destroyed a tank, pounded enemy positions and entrenchments and silenced their weapons.

Exchanges of fire continued in the Marivan region while the fire of our units on Saddamist positions in Panjwin, Hargineh and Khanom-e Sheykhan destroyed a vehicle and several entrenchments of the enemy positions in Kanikabud and opened fire on Saddamist entrenchments, inflicting casualties on the enemy.

The ceaseless efforts of the forces of Islam to mop up and consolidate defensive positions all along the liberated regions in the west continues. Enemy artillery was active on the southern fronts of the country, and the artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned their fire.

In the southern operational regions, our combative forces kept a check on all enemy activities and by their timely fire hampered the movements of the Saddamist forces. Several of the enemy's positions and some of its equipment were set on fire and destroyed.

The Khorramshahr region and parts of the residential districts of Abadan came under the fire of the enemy's heavy, long-range weapons yesterday, as a result of which 1 of our compatriots was martyred and 20 others wounded. In addition, several residential units in Abadan caught fire.

During the past 24 hours, enemy incursions into the airspace of our southern and western regions were beaten back by the fire of our antiaircraft units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

970: 10 July Report

LD101808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Communique No 970 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The eve of the 19th of the blessed month of Ramadan [11 July], the month of the victory of blood over the sword, the month of the boiling of the blood of the lovers of Karbala', is a great evening; one of the precious ones of the lofty holy nights; an evening at the dawn of which the clean drops of the blood of the lord of the believers and the aide to the oppressed Imam 'Ali, may peace be upon him, were shed and the golden point of the red line of the victory of Islam appeared, a line which at present guides and leads the lovers of Islam and Imam 'Ali's path and the soldiers on the fronts of the war between truth and falsehood.

The combatants of Imam 'Ali's path, mentioning his name, became the victors of the great Victory [fath al-mubin] Operation of crossing the Karun River and of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas].

The results of the battle launched by the followers of Islam in the past 24 hours are brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots:

Fighting and exchanges of fire continued sporadically on most of the western fronts. They were more intense on the Salehabad and Qasr-e Shirin fronts.

On the Marivan front, artillery fire of the combatants of the ground forces in the Panjwin, Hargineh and Khanom-e Shaykhan areas destroyed several bunkers of the Iraqi forces and killed or wounded a number of their personnel. The enemy's movements and activities on this front were checked by the artillery and heavy-weapon fire of the combatants of Islam.

In the course of exchanges of fire on the Paveh front, the combatants of the ground forces set fire to and destroyed several trenches and foxholes and one truck of the Iraqi forces and killed a number of men of the forces of blasphemy in the vicinity of Toveyleh and (Balkhah).

On the Abadan front, the heroes of the gendarmerie and the other combatants of Islam returned the Saddamists' fire from the other side of the Arvand Rud, halting the movement of Iraqi vehicles on the Al-Faw-Basra road and inflicting losses on the Al-Faw installations and personnel.

Parts of the city of Abadan yesterday continued to come under the long-range artillery fire of Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

In the past 24 hours, all enemy air raids in the western and southern border areas of the country were foiled.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

971: 11 July Report

LD111752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 82

[Communique No 971 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. With the strength of their matchless faith, the fighters of the path of God continue their relentless crusade against the enemies of Islam, and the holy month of Ramadan, the month of the Islamic God and the uprising of the Koran, has given a new life to the strength and might of the combatants of Islam. A summary of military operations and the conditions on the war fronts during the past 24 hours is hereby brought to your attention:

Yesterday our forces on the fronts and operational sectors returned enemy fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamites. In the Abadan sector, the combatant Gendarmerie units of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud under heavy-weapon fire, destroying 3 light and heavy vehicles, a fuel tank, 5 slit trenches and foxholes and an ammunition dump of the Saddamites, and killed or wounded more than 20.

Yesterday the Saddamite mercenaries brought Abadan under long-range weapon fire, wrecking a clinic, parts of a hospital and a house. Yesterday 2 of our compatriots were martyred and 11 were wounded in Abadan and Khorramshahr.

In the Marivan sector, exchanges of fire continued.

As a result of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's artillery fire on enemy stations in the Tutman sector, a mortar and four slit trenches of the Saddamites were destroyed.

In the Biarreh sector, an Iraqi post was damaged.

During the past few days, enemy engineering operations and ground activities have increased considerably; the Saddamite forces are busy making earthworks and expanding minefields in various sectors and are strengthening their positions by completing canals and formations, so that they can, as it were, be safe from the blows of the combatants of Islam and continue their criminal activities, such as bombarding residential areas.

During the past 24 hours, enemy air activity continued; a number of Iraqi planes entered the airspace of the southern and western regions of the country but fled, thanks to fire from the Islamic Republic of Iran's antiaircraft units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

CONSPIRACY TRIAL POSTPONED AT QOTBZADEH REQUEST

LD101136 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 10 (IRNA) -- The trial of Sadeq Qotzbadeh, former foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been postponed till further notice.

The trial, scheduled to open tomorrow, is delayed on Qotbzadeh's request, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahammadi-Reyshahri, the head of the military tribunal, today.

The tribunal agreed with the request, which also includes the trial of others involved in the foiled plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic. The conspiracy of Qotbzadeh and others was uncovered late in March.